

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: October 2010

Next MEPAG meeting June 16-17, 2011, Lisbon, Portugal.

Mars Science News

Community Input On Planetary Research and Analysis Programs Requested

The Discipline Scientists of the Planetary Science Division and I are always interested in improving the quality of the Division's Supporting Research and Technology (SR&T) programs. The scientific community plays an essential role in this by ensuring the quality of funded work through the generous donation of your time in reviewing proposals submitted to these programs by your colleagues and by serving on various advisory panels, MOWGs and program assessment groups. There is now another way for you to help.

I invite you to participate in a survey on our SR&T Programs being conducted, at my request, by the Planetary Science Subcommittee. Please go to the following URL and give us your best thoughts.
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nasa_planetary_research

Your responses to this survey will help the Division in the planning and management of these programs. This survey is scheduled to end on October 11, 2010, at 5 PM Eastern. The data and results (minus any of the requested personal information) will be published on our NASA HQ website (will announce the location in this and other community newsletters). Your participation in this survey is very much appreciated.

James L. Green, Director
Planetary Science Division
NASA Headquarters

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
10/7	50 Years of Exo/Astrobiology: Seeing signs of Life RSVP deadline
10/8	Mars at Art nominations deadline
10/11	Supporting Research and Technology programs survey deadline
11/14	2010 JUSTSAP Symposium Early Bird Registration deadline
11/19	Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices registration deadline
11/26	4th Int'l Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere abstracts deadline
12/4	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip registration deadline
1/4	42nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference abstracts deadline
1/7	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip abstracts deadline

Heads up on a fabulous upcoming event celebrating 50 years of Exo/Astrobiology: Seeing Signs of Life!

I wanted to bring to your attention a FREE event that NASA and Lockheed Martin are sponsoring on Thursday, October 14, 2010. The event is a day-long symposium on NASA's Exobiology and Astrobiology Program. It is all about the origins and discoveries in this field over the past 50 years and the exciting ways three fundamental questions will be answered in the next 50 years: How does life begin and evolve? Is there life beyond Earth and, if so, how can we detect it? What is the future of life on Earth and in the universe?

The event will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern) at the Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, Arlington, VA 22202. Confirmed speakers include: Baruch S. Blumberg, The Honorable Daniel S. Goldin, David Grinspoon, Noel Hinners, James Lovelock, Lynn Margulis, and Steve Squyres.

RSVPs are required by close of business (Eastern) October 7 to exosymposium@gmail.com and seating is limited. (Non-US Citizens: please provide nationality, along with passport number/expiration date.) For those of you that cannot attend the event, it will be shown live on NASA TV and also on Livestream.

For more information, see: <http://astrobiology.nasa.gov> or contact: libillin@gwu.edu

James L. Green, Director
Planetary Science Division
NASA Headquarters

Mars as Art 2

NASA's Mars Exploration Program has decided to create a second "Mars as Art" exhibit. Members of the Mars exploration community, please nominate as many images as you would like. All nominations must be submitted by October 8, 2010 at: <http://mars-as-art.cloudapp.net>

Doug McCuistion, Director
Mars Exploration Program
NASA Headquarters

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	October 4-8, 2010 Sapporo, JAPAN	5th Alfven Conference: Plasma Interaction with Non-Magnetized Planets/Moons and Its Influence on Planetary Evolution http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/
	October 11-15, 2010 MOSCOW	First Moscow International Solar System Symposium The main theme of the symposium will be Mars system studies. This theme is closely related to Phobos Sample Return Mission devoted to Mars and Phobos study, which is in preparation for launch in the end of 2011. http://ms2010.cosmos.ru/

	October 19, 2010 Denver, CO, USA	Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Denver, CO Contact Jeff Plaut (Jeffrey.j.plaut@jpl.nasa.gov)
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, CO, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	November 8-9, 2010 NETHERLANDS	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting joint with Venus Express Science Team Meeting Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssd.esa.int
	November 14-18, 2010 Fairmont Orchard, HI, USA	2010 JUSTSAP Symposium "The Next Giant Leap: Building Sustainable Settlements Beyond Low-Earth Orbit" Early Bird Registration deadline – October 15, 2010 http://justsap.org/2010-justsap-symposium.html
	November 15-19, 2010 Orlando, FL, USA	ISPRS Symposium / Planetary Mapping Workshop The symposium has a dedicated workshop on Planetary Mapping, which will include data acquisition, processing and analysis, as well as planetary reference system and data bases. http://www.asprs.org/orlando2010/index.html Call for abstracts http://www.asprs.org/orlando2010/OrlandoCallDomestic.pdf
	December 6-8, 2010 Brussels, BE	COST Workshop: "Carbon in the Solar System" This meeting is organized by the Working Group 3: chemistry in the solar system of the COST action CM-0805 "The chemical cosmos". COST is a science support programme of the European Council aimed at promoting networking in European research, but this meeting is open to all interested parties. More details can be obtained at Christian.Muller@busoc.be Registration is open on http://www.busoc.eu/cost/
	December 7-9, 2010 Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA	Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices Registration deadline November 19, 2010 Contact Technical Administrative Services (tasalb@msn.com)
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://www.agu.org/meetings
<i>First Quarter 2011</i>		
	January 17-21, 2011 Leiden/Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	Landing Site Characterization and Selection for Future Exploration Missions, a Europlanet JRA1 Workshop http://www.planetarygis.org/wiki/workshop2011
	January 25-26, 2011 Washington, DC, USA	4th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG)
	February 8-11, 2011 Paris, FRANCE	4th International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations Abstract deadline November 26, 2010 http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2011/
	February 7-9, 2011 Marrakech, MOROCCO	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip A meeting of talks and discussions to understand the full range of the contributions of geobiology to space exploration and settlement. Field trip "Geomicrobiology and Geology from Precambrian to Quaternary" - dates are February 10-14, 2011. Deadline for registration without surcharge is December 4, 2010. Abstract submission deadline is January 7, 2011. http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/geoexp2011/

	February 18-22, 2011 Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA	IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology http://www.geomorph.org/main.html
	March 7-11, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	42nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Special sessions submittal deadline August 19, 2010 Abstracts due by January 4, 2011 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2011/
<i>Second Quarter, 2011</i>		
	March 2011	Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	April 3-8, 2011 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011
	April 11-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	Humans in Space Symposium http://www.dsls.usra.edu/meetings/IAA/
	May 18-20, 2011 Madrid, SPAIN	Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (CORALS II) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/corals2011/
	Update June 5-8, 2011 Bozeman, MT, USA	Interplanetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-8) Contact Mark Adler (mark.adler@jpl.nasa.gov)
	June 5-8, 2011 Bozeman, MT, USA	AbGradCon 2011 – Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference http://abgradcon2011.org/
	June 12-15, 2011 Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA	2nd Annual Joint Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium and Space Resources Roundtable (PTMSS/SRR) Details to be posted to the PTMSS website (www.ptmss.com) as they become available.
 	June 13-21, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	International Conference on Mars on “The Exploration of Mars Habitability” Pre-Conference Mars Science Team Meetings: June 12-13 (1.5) days. Open for Mars science team meetings. Post-Meeting Field Trip: Rio Tinto, Spain: June 18-20/21 (3-4 days). Visit to unique geology and acidic environment.
	June 13-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	A Wet vs. Dry Moon: Exploring Volatile Reservoirs and Implications for the Evolution of the Moon and Future Exploration http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2011/
 	June 16-17, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	First International MEPAG Meeting
<i>Third Quarter, 2011</i>		
	July 3-8, 2011 Montpellier, FRANCE	ISSOL – The International Astrobiology Society an IAU C51 (Bioastronomy) Joint International Conference http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/
	August 8-12, 2011 Greenwich, ENGLAND	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix (g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk) http://www.metsoc2011.org

	August 14-19, 2011 Prague, Czech Republic	Goldschmidt 2011 http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		
	October 2-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS & 2011 European Planetary Science Congress Contact Olivier Grasset at Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9-12, 2011 Minneapolis, MN, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12-16, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	March 2012	43rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	44th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013 Denver, Colorado, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
<i>2014</i>		
	March 2014	45th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	Geological Society of American Annual Meeting
<i>2015</i>		
	March 2015	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Good Friday	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014
Rosh Hashanah	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014
Yom Kippur	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.